

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (original): A method comprising:

upon receiving a device command from a first host,

- i) reserving for the first host a device targeted by the device command; and
- ii) setting a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising upon receiving a second device command from the first host, resetting the reservation time period.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

upon receiving a device command targeted to the device from a second host,

determining if the device is reserved; and

if the device is reserved to a host other than the second host, denying the device command from the second host.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein determining if the device is reserved comprises determining if the reservation time period has expired.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising if the device is not reserved, executing the device command from the second host.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the device command from the second host comprises a clear command.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the reservation time period comprises a time period determined based on the device command.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises one of a write command, a rewind command, a read command, a load command, an unload command, and a seek command.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a tape device command.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a disk device command.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the device command comprises a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) command.

Claim 12 (original): A method comprising:

upon receiving a first command of a predetermined type from a first host, and if a device targeted by the device command is not reserved,

- i) reserving the device for the first host; and
- ii) setting a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation;

upon receiving a subsequent command of a predetermined type from the first host, while the device is reserved for the first host, resetting the reservation period; and

upon receiving the subsequent command of a predetermined type from the first host, when the reservation status is not reserved for the first host, processing the subsequent command as the first command.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, further comprising upon receiving a second command of a predetermined type targeted to the device from a second

host, while the device is reserved for the first host, denying the second command.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the second command comprises one of a write command, a rewind command, a read command, a load command, an unload command, and a seek command.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the second command comprises a clear command.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising upon receiving a second command of a predetermined type targeted to the device from a second host, while the device is reserved for the first host, executing the second command.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the first command and the second command comprise Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) commands.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the second command comprises one of an inquiry command, a request sense command, and a log sense ~~command~~command.

Claim 19 (original): An apparatus comprising:

- an interface to receive commands from a plurality of hosts;
- a reservation agent, communicatively coupled to the interface, the reservation agent to determine if a device targeted by a first command is reserved, and if the device is not reserved, to reserve the device for a first host initiating the first command and to set a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation.

Claim 20 (original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reservation agent is further to deny a second command targeted to the device received from a second host while the device reserved to the first host.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reservation agent is further to reset the reservation time period upon receiving a second command targeted to the device from the first host while the device is reserved for the first host.

Claim 22 (original): An apparatus comprising:  
first means for receiving commands from a plurality of hosts; and  
second means, communicatively coupled to the first means, for determining if a device targeted by a first command is reserved, , for reserving the device for a first host initiating the first command upon receiving the first command while the device is not reserved, and for setting a reservation time period for expiration of the reservation.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the second means further comprises means for denying a second command targeted to the device received from a second host while the device is reserved for the first host.